

13. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 12 wherein the polyamide of the outer abuse layer is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) copolyamide 6/12,
- b) copolyamide 6/66,
- c) polyamide 6 copolymer comprising less than 5%, by weight of the copolymer, of an aromatic co-monomer,
- d) copolyamide of polyamide 6 and a partially aromatic polyamide, and
- e) terpolyamide comprising polyamide 6, polyamide 11, and polyamide 66.

14. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 12 wherein the outer abuse layer comprises at least 50%, by weight of the outer abuse layer, of at least one polyamide with a melting point of at least 175 °C, blended with less than 50%, by weight of the outer abuse layer, of an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer.

15. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 14 wherein the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer comprises between 3% and 40% by weight of the outer abuse layer.

16. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 11 wherein the heat-sealing layer comprises a single polyolefin or a blend of two or more polyolefins with a melting temperature less than 140°C.

17. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 16 wherein the heat-sealing layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of:

- a) heterogeneous or homogeneous ethylene- α -olefin copolymer having a density less than 0.915 g/cm³,
- b) a blend of a) with a minor amount of polyethylene homopolymer,
- c) ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer,
- d) ethylene-acrylic or methacrylic acid copolymer,
- e) ionomer,
- f) a blend of heterogeneous or homogeneous ethylene- α -olefin copolymer having a density of between 0.915 g/cm³ and 0.930 g/cm³, and ethylene-vinyl-acetate copolymer or ethylene-alkyl (meth)acrylate copolymer,
- g) ethylene-propylene-butene ter-polymer, and
- h) ethylene-alkyl acrylate-maleic anhydride ter-polymers.

18. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 17 wherein the heat-sealing layer (a) comprises a heterogeneous or homogeneous ethylene- α -olefin copolymer having a density less than or equal to 0.915 g/cm³.

19. The multi-layer heat-shrinkable film of claim 11 in the form of a seamless tubing wherein the outer heat-sealing layer is the innermost layer of the tube.

20. A container comprising a multi-layer heat-shrinkable film comprising:

- a) an outer heat-sealing layer comprising at least one polyolefin;
- b) an outer abuse layer comprising a polyamide with a melting point of at least 175 °C; and
- c) an intermediate gas barrier layer comprising vinylidene chloride copolymer,

wherein the container includes a seal involving the outer heat-sealing layer, and wherein the outer heat-sealing layer forms the inside layer of the container, and the outer abuse layer forms the outside layer of the container.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 10 have been canceled, and claims 11 to 20 have been added.

35 U.S.C. §112

On pages 2 through 5 of the Office Action, paragraphs 1 through 12, claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Without repeating all the various specific grounds of rejection, applicants now present a new set of claims which are intended to address each point raised in the Office Action vis-à-vis 112 2d. Virtually all the changes appearing in the new set of claims 11 to 20, compared with original claims 1 to 10, follow the helpful suggestions of the Examiner.

One exception is the use of the term "partially aromatic" in original claim 3, now new claim 13. Applicants traverse the rejection under 112 2d with respect to this term. It is respectfully submitted that the term "partially aromatic" is a clear and well known term in resin chemistry, in particular in polyamide chemistry, and as such is a clear and defi-